

January 3, 2005

Tyler Przybylek, General Counsel, NA-3
National Nuclear Security Administration
Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Przybylek,

Allow me to offer my highest regards to you for your hard and diligent work throughout the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Management and Operating Contract Competition process. I recognize the difficulties and tremendous constraints imposed on you by both the scale and time frame necessitated by such an important and urgent undertaking.

It is precisely the tremendous importance of this competition that has prompted me to write you to request an extension of the time period for public comment. It is my understanding that the public comment period extended from December 1, 2004, through January 7, 2005. Not only is a comment period of only five weeks for such a major change for the LANL community very short at any time of the year, it is even further abbreviated when held over the holiday season.

In order to ensure that everyone who will be affected by the outcome of this competition feels they have had every opportunity to participate in this process and that their voices and opinions have been taken into account, I strongly urge you and your committee to extend the public comment period to allow adequate time for complete review and discussion by all interested parties, including New Mexico state officials, LANL employees and retirees, and the general public.

Thank you very much and please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Tom Udall
Member of Congress